

EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Silver City, NM

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

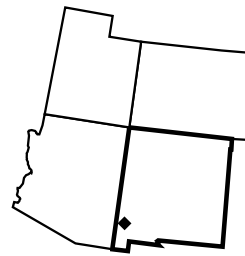
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected Silver City for a Brownfields Pilot. Silver City was also selected to receive additional funding for assessments at Brownfields properties to be used for greenspace purposes. Silver City (population 12,064), which is situated on the east slope of the Continental Divide in southwestern New Mexico, was established in 1870 when silver was found in the area. In contrast to other mining communities which eventually became ghost towns, Silver City continued to thrive by expanding its economy to include copper mining, cattle ranching, and lumber milling. In 1983, Western New Mexico University was established in the town. Today, the town is marked by an active tourism industry, a vibrant arts community, an annual bicycle race, rodeos, conferences, music festivals, and a growing retiree and "telecommuter" community. Cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields in and near the town's historic district would help retain and expand downtown businesses.

The town proposes four initial brownfields for the Pilot project, including Beacon Hill, a 462-acre parcel that was one of the first areas to be mined near Silver City and is now proposed for open space, trails, and other recreational uses; the old town landfill, a 50-acre closed and capped landfill adjacent to the city golf course; and two mill sites.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Silver City, NM

Date of Announcement:
May 2000

Amount: \$200,000
Greenspace: \$50,000

Profile: Silver City targets four sites with plans to create openspace and greenspace at Beacon Hill.

Contacts:

Silver City
(505) 538-3731

Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 6
(214) 665-6736

Visit the EPA Region 6 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sf/bfpages/sfbfhome.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

OBJECTIVES

Silver City's overarching aim is to stimulate investment in the community and promote a future based on economically sustainable development and adequate environmental health. The town seeks to promote brownfields cleanup and redevelopment, preservation of open space, and increased recreational and economic opportunities that are compatible with the town's western small-town atmosphere and rich cultural heritage. Silver City plans to preserve open areas (through the identification of trail corridors and other activities), improve air quality, promote groundwater recharge, preserve distinctive view and natural features, buffer neighborhoods, and provide a contrast to urban development.

The Pilot will integrate planning activities for Boston Hill with greenspace planning for other target sites, such as additional ballfields at the Old Landfill and a trail/riparian corridor along San Vicente Arroyo and Pinos Altos Creek to include the Mill Sites and a landfill borrow pit.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting environmental assessments, including soil sampling, surface and groundwater monitoring, and research on historical uses of the four sites;
- Conducting engineering studies and cleanup designs, including cost estimates;
- Developing site-specific reuse plans;
- Ensuring community involvement with the targeted sites; and
- Performing mapping and surveying activities, environmental assessments, and greenspace planning activities at Boston Hill.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.